

1 SENATE BILL NO. 234

2 INTRODUCED BY G. VANCE

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM
 5 INTEGRITY ACT; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
 6 TO VERIFY THE INTEGRITY OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ROLLS; REQUIRING REPORTING
 7 TO THE LEGISLATURE; AND PROVIDING A ~~DELAYED~~ AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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11 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Short title. [Sections 1 through 4] may be cited as the "Unemployment
 12 Insurance Program Integrity Act".

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14 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of [sections 1 through 4] is to enhance program
 15 integrity for the state's unemployment insurance program by requiring the state to utilize a GOVERNMENT OR
 16 commercially available database to verify the integrity of the state's unemployment insurance rolls, check new
 17 hire records against unemployment insurance rolls on a weekly basis, and check ~~federal~~, state, county, and
 18 local prison and jail records.

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20 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Definitions. For the purposes of [sections 1 through 4], the following
 21 definitions apply:

22 (1) "Department of corrections" means the Montana department of corrections as provided in 2-15-
 23 2301.

24 ~~(2) "Department of labor" means the Montana department of labor and industry, which is charged with~~
 25 ~~administering the state's unemployment insurance program as provided in Article XII, section 2, of the Montana~~
 26 ~~constitution.~~

27 ~~(3)~~(2) "New hire records" means the directory of newly hired and rehired employees reported under
 28 state and federal law and managed by the department of labor.

1 ~~(4)~~⁽³⁾ "Unemployment insurance rolls" means jobless workers receiving unemployment insurance
2 benefits.

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4 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Department duties -- integrity data hub -- review of information --**
5 **reporting to legislature.** The department of labor shall:

6 (1) engage with and utilize a commercially available database to verify the integrity of the state's
7 unemployment insurance rolls to verify the integrity of the state's unemployment insurance rolls;

8 (2) on a weekly basis, check the unemployment insurance rolls against the department of corrections
9 list of incarcerated individuals to verify eligibility and ensure program integrity;

10 (3) on a weekly basis, check ~~new hire records~~ THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ROLLS against the
11 national ~~directory~~ DIRECTORY of new hires to verify eligibility;

12 (4) have the authority to execute a memorandum of understanding with any department, agency, or
13 division for information required to be shared between agencies as outlined in [sections 1 through 4];

14 (5) if it receives information concerning an individual receiving unemployment insurance benefits that
15 indicates a change in circumstances that may affect eligibility, review the individual's case; and

16 (6) report to the economic affairs interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210 relating to the
17 administration of [sections 1 through 4].

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19 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 through 4] are intended to be
20 codified as an integral part of Title 39, chapter 51, and the provisions of Title 39, chapter 51, apply to [sections
21 1 through 4].

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23 **NEW SECTION. Section 6. Effective date.** [This act] is effective ~~January 1, 2022~~ ON PASSAGE AND
24 APPROVAL.

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